



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 8, 2003

- ***In the West***, scattered showers are ending across **Arizona**, while locally heavy rains are spreading into **New Mexico**. The **Southwestern** showers are providing limited drought relief but causing local flash flooding. Farther north, unfavorably dry conditions persist in winter wheat areas of the **Northwest**, despite the arrival of cooler air.
- ***On the Plains***, cool, showery conditions are overspreading **southern portions of the region**, aiding recently planted winter wheat but slowing fieldwork and adversely affecting open-boll cotton. Meanwhile, soil moisture shortages continue to slow winter wheat emergence and establishment on the **northern and central High Plains**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm, dry weather favors summer crop dry down and harvesting. Conditions also favor winter wheat planting from the **Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region**.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers are developing from **Georgia northward through the Carolinas**, slowing autumn fieldwork. Meanwhile, locally heavy showers are maintaining wet conditions in winter agricultural areas of **Deep South Texas**. Elsewhere in the **South**, warm, dry weather is promoting summer crop harvesting and initial winter wheat planting.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, a series of disturbances coupled with easterly winds will enhance rainfall across the **Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States**, while high pressure will provide the **Northeast** with mild, dry weather. Farther west, showers and thundershowers will spread from the **southern Rockies** into the **southern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley** as tropical moisture associated with the remnants of Hurricanes Nora and Olaf feeds northward from the **eastern Pacific Ocean**. Unseasonably warm weather will continue in the **northern Plains and Midwest**, but cooler air will overspread the **Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 13-17 calls for above-normal precipitation across the **Northeastern, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes States**, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in **California**, the **Great Basin**, and the **western Gulf Coast region**. Above-normal temperatures are expected in the **West**, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast to return to the **East**.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>